

CALL TO ARTISTS – Request for Qualifications

\$10,000 Public Art Design Commission

RFQ Deadline: April 27, 2012

The Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) in Cambridge, MA is seeking qualifications from artists and designers interested in a two-dimensional public art project for the Cambridge Street Underpass. The site is a large vehicular underpass at the west end of Cambridge Street near Harvard Square. From this RFQ six finalists will be invited to submit proposals, one of which will be selected for the final commission. The \$10,000 commission will cover all design services through final installation, including artist fee, travel, all drawings and documents, and coordination with City staff and contractor.

The City of Cambridge will be doing repairs to the walls of the underpass, and the artistic design will need to be created using the protective coating material selected by the City. This material comes in a specific and somewhat limited palette (possible, but not final, example: <http://tinyurl.com/c53y8fe>). The four walls of the site comprise approximately 2,750 running feet of wall and over 33,000 square feet of surface.

The Cambridge Street Underpass public art project presents a unique challenge to turn long expanses of concrete wall into an active and vibrant visual experience using a limited color palette. It is a highly visible site, with approximately 30,000 cars travelling through daily. The surrounding context of this main thoroughfare includes historic Harvard Square, the Cambridge Common, a fire station, and the Harvard University campus, including Memorial Hall, the Law School, and Harvard Yard.

The Cambridge Street Underpass process will be as follows:

- Artists submit images of previous work and biographic information online
- Art Jury selects **6 finalists**
- **6 finalists paid \$750 each to create a proposal** and a visual presentation
- All **proposals exhibited in the CAC Gallery** for consideration and discussion by the public/Committee
- **Site Committee selects one artist** to be awarded with the \$10,000 commission
- The selected artist then creates detailed drawings and coordinates the execution with city staff and the contractor

Timeline:

April 27, 2012	All Electronic Submissions due
Early May, 2012	Notifications of finalists sent
June 15, 2012	Final proposals/presentation Materials due at CAC
June 25 –July 31, 2012	Gallery Exhibition of proposals
Mid July, 2012	Announcement of final selection
Late September, 2012	Artwork Installation

How to Submit:

Submit images past work and biographic information at <http://cac.slideroom.com>.

Registration is free and easy – upload digital files of work samples and complete a form of information and you will be considered for the Cambridge Street Underpass as well as all future public art commissions within the City of Cambridge.

For more information about Cambridge Arts Council programs please visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org. For technical support using Slideroom, please e-mail support@slideroom.com. For other questions please contact CAC Public Art Administrator, Jeremy Gaucher at jgaucher@cambridgema.gov; 617-349-4388.